

508.125 Female genital mutilation.

- (1) As used in this section, "female genital mutilation" means a procedure that involves the partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or any procedure harmful to the female genitalia, including but not limited to:
 - (a) A clitoridectomy;
 - (b) The partial or total removal of the clitoris or the prepuce;
 - (c) The excision or the partial or total removal of the clitoris and the labia minora, with or without excision of the labia majora;
 - (d) The infibulation or the narrowing of the vaginal orifice with the creation of a covering seal by cutting and appositioning of the labia minora or the labia majora, with or without the excision of the clitoris;
 - (e) Pricking, piercing, incising, scraping, or cauterizing the genital area; or
 - (f) Any other action to purposely alter the structure or function of the female genitalia for a nonmedical reason.
- (2) A person is guilty of female genital mutilation when:
 - (a) The person knowingly performs female genital mutilation on another person under eighteen (18) years of age;
 - (b) The person is a parent, guardian, or has immediate custody or control of a person under eighteen (18) years of age and knowingly consents to or permits female genital mutilation of such person; or
 - (c) The person knowingly removes or causes or permits the removal of a person under eighteen (18) years of age from Kentucky for the purposes of performance of female genital mutilation of the person.
- (3) It is not a defense to female genital mutilation that the conduct under subsection (2) of this section is:
 - (a) Required as a matter of religion, custom, ritual, or standard practice; or
 - (b) Consented to by the individual on whom it is performed or the individual's parent or guardian.
- (4) A surgical procedure is not a violation of subsection (1) of this section if the procedure is:
 - (a) Necessary to the health of the person on whom it is performed and is performed by a person licensed in the place of its performance as a health care provider; or
 - (b) Performed on a person in labor or who has just given birth and is performed for medical purposes connected with that labor or birth by a person licensed in the place of its performance as a health care provider.
- (5) Female genital mutilation is a Class B felony.

Effective: April 2, 2020

History: Created 2020 Ky. Acts ch. 74, sec. 1, effective April 2, 2020.